

CLAIMS

1. A method for a web services gateway to enable a web client to access a web service, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a profile from the web service, the profile containing a details of how to communicate with the web service and being in a format not recognisable to the web client;

creating a document based on the profile, the document being in a format recognisable to the web client and containing details of how to communicate with the web service via the gateway; and

providing, to a third party, information relating to the web service and a location from which the document can be obtained by the web client;

thereby enabling the web client to use the document to access the web service via the web service gateway.

2. A method according to claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

receiving a request from the web client for the web service, the request including details of the document;

using the details of the document to match the request with the profile received from the web service;

using details from the profile to convert the request to a request suitable for sending to the web service; and

sending the converted request to the web service.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the details of how to communicate with the web service via the gateway include a location in the gateway for the client to use when requesting to access the web service, the location being associated with the profile and the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving a request, at the location, from the web client for the web service;

obtaining details from the profile associated with the location and using the details to convert the request into a request suitable for sending to the web service; and

sending the converted request to the web service.

4. A method according to claim 2 or claim 3 comprising the further steps:

waiting for a response to the converted request from the web service;

using the response to the converted request to trigger a response to the web client request.

5. A web services gateway which enables a web client to access to a web service, the gateway comprising:

means for receiving a profile from the web service, the profile containing a details of how to communicate with the web service and being in a format not recognisable to the web client;

means for creating a document based on the profile, the document being in a format recognisable to the web client and containing details of how to communicate with the web service via the gateway; and

means for providing, to a third party, information relating to the web service and a location from which the document can be obtained by the web client;

thereby enabling the web client to use the document to access the web service via the web service gateway.

6. A gateway according to claim 5 further comprising:

means for receiving a request from the web client for the web service, the request including details of the document;

means for using the details of the document to match the request with the profile received from the web service;

means for using details from the profile to convert the request to a request suitable for sending to the web service; and

means for sending the converted request to the web service.

7. An gateway according to claim 5 wherein the details of how to communicate with the web service via the gateway include a location in the gateway for the web client to use when requesting to access the web service, the location being associated with the profile and the gateway further comprises:

means for receiving, at the location, a request from the web client for the web service;

means for obtaining details from the profile associated with the location and using the details to convert the request into a request suitable for sending to the web service; and

sending the converted request to the web service.

8. A gateway according to claim 6 or claim 7 further comprising:

means for waiting for a response to the converted request from the web service;

means for using the response to the converted request to trigger a response to the web client request.

9. A computer program product comprising instructions which, when executed on a data processing host, cause the data processing host to carry out the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4.